(d) The Department of Tourism has the following short-term and tong-;erm plans to make tourism more attractive and thereby attracting more foreign tourists in the country.

- Positioning and maintaining tourism development as a National priority activity.
- Enhancing and maintaining the competitiveness of India as a tourism destination.
- Improving India's existing tourism products and expanding these to meet new market requirements.
- Creation of world class infrastructure.
- Developing sustained and effective market plans and programmes.
- Special thrust to rural and small segment tourism.
- Attention to civilisational issues and issues pertaining to civil administration, good governance and also of social and cultural values.
- Development of tourism circuits and improvement of wayside amenities to facilitate growth in domestic tourism.

Renovation of Tourist spots in NE region

729. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the tourist spots now existing in different States of the North-Eastern region;

(b) the details of these spots which are based on religious background and also on other aspects;

(c) whether there are new projects on tourism under consideration with the State wise list of projects;

(d) the decision of Government regarding new projects and the sanction of funds, if any; and

(e) the sanction of funds in details for renovation and development of the existing tourist spots?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIJAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) Some of the important tourist spots in the NE region are as follows:

Assam:	Guwahati, Kaziranga National Park, Kamakhya Devi Temple (religious), Sibsagar.
Arunachal Pradesh:	Itanagar, Bomdila, Tawang Gompa (religious).
Manipur:	Imphal, War Cemetery, Loktak lake, Govindajee Temple (Religious).
Mizoram:	Aizawl, Tamdil lake, Champhai, Dampa Sanctuary
Meghalaya:	Shillong, Barapani, Umiam Lake, Cathedral of Mary Help of Christians (Religious).
Nagaland:	Kohima, War Cementery, DImapur, Catholic Cathedral of Aradura hills (religious), Fakim Sanctuary.
Tripura:	Rock Cust at Unakoti and Pilak, MataTripureshwari Temple at Udaipur (Religious) Fourteen Goddess Temple (Religious).
Sikkim:	Gangtok, Rumtek Monastery (Religious), Khecheopah Lake.

(c) and (d) During the current year the following ciruit has been idenitified for development. HUDCO has been engaged to make the detailed project report.

Shillong-Guwahati-Kaziranga-Tezpur-Bhalakpung-Tawang-Majuli-Sibsagar-Kohima.

Besides, it is planned to develop a major destination in each State. Financial assistance is provided to the States for fairs and festivals related to tourism.

(e) During the current year a provision of Rs. 22.5 crores has been made for North Eastern region including Sikkim for tourism development.

Basic amenities at Temples in Tamil Nadu

730. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Thanjavur, Madurai and Trichirappalli in Tamil Nadu are famous for ancient Temples;